



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
368th FINANCE MANAGEMENT COMPANY, DETACHMENT 4
3130 GEORGE WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
WICHITA, KS 67210-1598

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ARRC-CKS-E-NF

21 December 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

A.S.C.

SUBJECT: After Action Review (AAR) of Certification Exercise (CERTEX) during 17-21 December 2008.

1. The purpose of this AAR is to provide feedback for the CERTEX conducted at Camp McGregor, NM. The CERTEX provided a great training opportunity and technical assessment before Soldiers deploy into the theater of operations. The Soldiers from USAFINCOM Operation Support Team (OST) conducted themselves in the most professional manner as noted by each Soldier in the deploying unit. Also, all of the OST Soldiers have been deployed, which provides the necessary "real world" experience.
2. Issue: Timing of CERTEX
 - a. Discussion: The timing of the CERTEX should be conducted right after the Financial Management (FM) Technical Training. It is understood the Post Mobilization period is specifically to be used for the CERTEX for each deploying unit. The amount of days allotted for the CERTEX was appropriate.
 - b. Concerns: The length of time between FM Technical Training and CERTEX was too long. In this case, it was approximately seven weeks. It is understood the timing of this CERTEX was the exception rather than the rule.
 - c. Recommendations: Units should always complete their FM Technical Training right before the Mobilization Date whenever possible. There should be a mini CERTEX conducted right after the FM Technical Training, which will provide a comprehensive understanding of the training received before the official CERTEX begins. This would give Commanders a chance to assess which areas need specific additional training, and it will allow the Soldiers to see how everything flows prior to the start of the CERTEX.
3. Issue: Site Setup
 - a. Discussion: Specific requests were made from USAFINCOM OST to the 5th Armored (AR) Brigade, but several of these requests were not fulfilled. Therefore, the initial setup conducted by the OST was not as smooth as originally planned. The one big request was for a LAN drop, which is required for the Rumba software (used for DJMS) on the FMTP laptops. The DOIM at almost all site locations will not allow FMTP laptops to be connected directly to their network. Therefore, VSAT was originally requested. There were a few technical issues

with the VSAT, and these issues were not resolved. The workaround required laptops being signed out from the local S6 and each user signing up for LAN access. Some of these laptops did not have the correct Java version for the online DJMS application to work.

b. Sustain: Detachment IMO was able to install DDS, DMO and CAPS successfully. DJMS was accessible only after using the web version.

c. Improve: Test the VSAT prior to the USAFINCOM OST arriving onsite. Better training space needs to be provided. The trailer initially provided by 5th AR BDE was too small, which did not provide the ample space required. Afterwards, a Large Area Maintenance Shelter (LAMS) was provided, which was used later for the Detachment TOC and USAFINCOM OST AO. It would have been ideal to use the LAMS for the finance office, but the LAMS was provided after the LAN connectivity was established in the trailer. The lighting in the trailer did not initially provide ample lighting, which was later fixed when the CERTEX was almost concluded. Give the Detachment IMO administrator rights from the signed laptops from S6. This will allow any updated patches and correct software versions to be installed. Otherwise, S6 needs to provide better support to the deploying unit and OST.

4. Issue: Initial funding of Disbursing Agent (DA)

a. Sustain: The Disbursing Cell of the OST walked the DA through the process of conducting a vault to vault transfer for the initial funding. There was ample amount of time allotted, and the process went smoothly.

b. Improve: None.

5. Issue: Disbursing

a. Sustain: The layout and flow of the disbursing section was great, which the flow went from Input Clerk to Certifier to Cashier. All necessary disbursing systems were available, which includes DDS, PCC, and ECC. There was good establishment of Internal Control within DDS where no conflicting duties were established for any user. No cashiers had a loss of funds besides the play for the MESL.

b. Improve: More role players need to be provided. Some 368th FMCO, DET 4 Soldiers were used as role players, which took away from their own training time. The FC rate used in the CERTEX should be the same rate used in the theater of operations. This would provide familiarity. The current policies and SOPs used in the CERTEX should be the same ones used in the theater of operations.

6. Issue: Commercial Vendor Services (CVS)

a. Sustain: There was great teamwork throughout the section. The MESLs were challenging and realistic. As each SME Soldier was taken out of play by the OC, other Soldiers stood up and the operations ran smoothly. Soldiers in this section were constantly training each other throughout the CERTEX.

b. Improve: The office space provided was too small with no filing cabinets, which made the required filing and organization difficult. More computers need to be provided due to the number of Soldiers in the section.

7. Issue: Military Pay

a. Sustain: There was great teamwork throughout the section. The applications necessary for this section was accessible, which includes DJMS and DMO. The MESLs were realistic, which provided excellent training. For example, the use of actual SSNs to research specific Soldiers was outstanding and provided this realism. It was much better than the use of notional Soldier's SSN.

b. Improve: The office space provided was too small with no filing cabinets, which made the required filing and organization difficult. There needed to be more computers due to the number of Soldiers in the section.

8. POC for this memorandum is the undersigned at (469) 223-3597.



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Commanding